

## Kennedy Case Autopsy Move Expected Soon

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — Dist. Atty. Edmund Dinis was expected to file either today or tomorrow his official request for an autopsy on the body of Miss Mary Jo Kopechne, the young blonde secretary who died in Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's July 18 auto accident, reports said.

The reports, both here and in Boston, quoted Dinis as implying that the initial paperwork could be handled via registered mail.

"The clerk of court (in Pennsylvania, where Miss Kopechne is buried) will then set a date for a hearing at which we probably will appear and argue," the Boston Globe quoted Dinis as saying.

DINIS and his assistants were reported nearing completion last night of their petition seeking the autopsy.

"It will recite what conditions substantiate our need for exhumation and an autopsy," Dinis said.

Miss Kopechne was buried in her hometown of Plymouth, Pa., without an autopsy three days after the accident.

The medical examiner who investigated her death said he released the body without an autopsy because the cause of death—declared officially to be accidental drowning—was "obvious."

Dinis already plans an inquest into the case. It begins Sept. 3 in Edgartown District Court on Martha's Vineyard, a resort island off the Cape Cod Coast.

IT WAS on Chappaquiddick Island, adjacent to the Vineyard, that the accident occurred.

In another development, Edgartown District Court Clerk Thomas A. Teller said yesterday that he has been deluged with requests for press credentials for the inquest.

"Hundreds of requests from newsmen all over the world" have been received, Teller said.

The courtroom in which the proceedings will be held seats only 160.